China's concern about cross-border terrorism

2961. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in the Times of India dated 2nd March, 2000, that Pakistan would not support Afghan militants or separatists fighting for independence in North-West China's Xinjiang region ;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that Chinese concern seems confined to Xinjiang and that Beijing appeared unconcerned by cross-border terrorism in Kashmir ; and

(c) if so, the reaction thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the report appearing on 2nd March, 2000, in the Times of India.

(b) and (c) The spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, while commenting upon the hijacking of IC-814 in December 1999, had reiterated China's consistent and clear-cut policy to firmly oppose and strongly condemn all forms of terrorist activities. China is also a signatory of the Joint Statement issued at the Shanghai-5 Defence Ministers' Meeting held on March 30, 2000. The Joint Statement issued at the end of the meeting stated that all parties would not tolerate ethnic separatism, religious fundamentalism or terrorism.

Discussion between Foreign Minister and his Italian Counterpart

2962. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had reviewed the global menace of terrorism in the context of the IC-814 hijack with his Italian counterpart Dr. Lomberto Dini in Rome on 12th Jan. ;

(b) if so, the outcome of the review ;

(c) whether Afghanistan situation was also discussed ;

(d) if so, whether Afghanistan situation was identified as a factor strengthening international terrorism ; and

(e) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. EAM had reviewed global menace of terrorism with his Italian counterpart Mr. Dini on 12th January, 2000 in Rome.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Afghanistan situation was also discussed and identified as a factor strengthening international terrorism. In view of the common concerns of both countries it was agreed that both India and Italy would cooperate bilaterally and in multilateral fora, to combat the menace of international terrorism.

Indo-Bangladesh Talks

2963. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officials of India and Bangladesh did discuss in Dhaka to simplify the visa issuing mechanism and to find a solution to the border disputes between the two countries ;

(b) whether it was to be followed at a national level talk ; and

(c) if so, what has been the out come of talks held, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) During the 6th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group held in Dhaka in January 2000, discussions were held, *inter-alia,* on review of the existing visa regime and issues related to border management and completion of boundary demarcation. Government of India proposes to discuss these matters at appropriate levels with Bangladesh including, *inter- alia,* during the forthcoming Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary level talks, with the objective of putting in place mutually satisfactory arrangements.

Declaring Pakistan as Terrorist State

2964.. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have urged the United State Administration to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State; and

(b) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Government have